

NEWS RELEASE

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Two Cases Sentenced Today in Federal Court

Springfield, IL - Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced the sentences in two unrelated cases in federal court in Springfield today.

U.S. District Judge Jeanne E. Scott today sentenced Mario Brown, age 28, of 722 N. Clay, Jacksonville, Illinois, to nine years in prison for possession of cocaine with intent to distribute. On October 5, 2005, Brown pled guilty to possessing 168.5 grams of cocaine when he was stopped on May 16, 2005, by Illinois State Police for speeding on I-72. Brown said he had purchased the cocaine in Springfield for \$4,500 and was taking it to Jacksonville to distribute in smaller quantities. The charge was the result of an investigation by the Illinois State Police.

In an unrelated case, Judge Scott sentenced Steven Ward, of Cowden, Illinois, in rural Shelby county, to 57 months in prison for possession of a firearm as a felon. Ward pled guilty on October 5, 2005, to possessing a .22 caliber rifle on May 10, 2005. At the time, Ward had been previously convicted in 1999 of aggravated battery in Shelby county. The charges resulted from an investigation by the Shelby County Sheriff's Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory M. Gilmore prosecuted both cases.

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